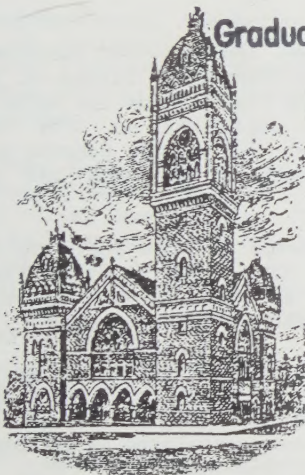


CATHOLIC PRIEST, JEWISH RABBI, METHODIST BISHOP TO KEYNOTE SPRING ASSEMBLY  
JOINT WORSHIP CELEBRATION WITH DISCIPLES OF CHRIST PLANNED

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APR 22 1988



## NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT DELEGATES CHOSEN

Eight youth and three adults have been selected to represent Central Pacific when the 1988 National Youth Event convenes in Iowa on the campus of Grinnell College in July. Idaho delegates include Amy Kelchner, and John Kloss, Boise First, and Troy Leiby, Boise Wright. Oregon participants will be Joelle Evans, Vancouver; Allison Jones and Warren Kikuta, Eugene; Matt Turner and Tom Wells, Beaverton. Accompanying the group will be Sherral Turner, Doug Smyth, Pete Franzen and Gene Ross.

Additional spaces have been requested from the national planning group with the hope that six more youth from the Conference who are now on a waiting list will also be able to attend. Costs for the five-day event will be shared among the Conference, the youth and the churches from which the youth come.

ALL GOD'S PEOPLE has been chosen by the Program and Arrangements Committee as the theme for the Spring Assembly which will converge on First Congregational Church, Portland, on May 20-21. Assembly delegates and visitors will focus on the theme of ecumenism with help from three ecumenical visitors. Rabbi Joshua Stampfer of Congregation Neveh Shalom, Portland, will speak on Friday afternoon. Father Bertram Griffin, Rector at St. Pius X, Beaverton, and President-Elect of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, will speak on Saturday morning. Methodist Bishop Calvin McConnell will be the preacher on Friday evening when CPC Assembly participants travel to the University of Portland to have dinner and then to worship with participants in the Disciples of Christ Assembly.

The Program and Arrangements Committee has designed a streamlined Assembly agenda this year. The event will get underway with a call to order at 2:15 Friday afternoon and will close following the 5:30 worship on Saturday. Associate Conference Minister Gene Ross will preach at the closing worship. Instead of workshops on Saturday morning there will be an ecumenical mission fair. The Saturday afternoon business session will include elections, 1989 budget approval and additional action on the Camp Adams Capital Campaign.

The initial mailing for the Assembly will be mailed from the Conference office on April 7.

## WOMENS' MEETINGS SET; "COMMON ROOTS - UNIQUE IDENTITIES"

Women from churches across the Conference will gather for the annual Spring Cluster gatherings to explore the theme, "Common Roots-Unique Identities". The explorations, focused on Jewish/Christian relationships, will be guided by Susan Ropp, Student Intern Minister at First Congregational Church, Boise.

The schedule for the cluster gatherings includes:

Wednesday, April 6	Pocatello
Thursday, April 7	Nampa
Friday, April 8	Ione
Monday, April 11	Smryna
Tuesday, April 12	Lincoln City

## ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED

The women of the Conference will meet in annual meeting on Friday morning, May 20, at First Congregational Church, Vancouver. The program will include an entertaining presentation of liturgical music with organ, piano, song, dance, bells and musical instruments. The guest speaker for the meeting will be Amy Carter, Peace and Justice Intern with the United Church Board for World Ministries. Ms. Carter has just returned from an assignment in the Phillipines. The business session will include the election of Women's Board members and dedication of the Education Loan and Grant Fund.

## WOMEN'S RETREATS DATES ANNOUNCED

Two 1988 Women's Retreats will be held: one at Pilgrim Cove Camp in Idaho on August 5-8, the other at Camp Adams in Oregon on September 9-11. Additional information on these two events will be sent later.

### IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Lloyd Raymond White  
September 10, 1931 - March 6, 1988  
Pastor of Ashland UCC 1971-1973

## SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAM SEEKS STAFF

The Idaho and Oregon Camping Task Forces are in the midst of seeking persons to serve on their Summer Resident staffs at Pilgrim Cove and Camp Adams. The following staff positions need to be filled at Pilgrim Cove: Health Aide, Lifeguard who can also help with music and recreation, and an Arts and Crafts Aide. The period of employment is from July 1 through July 27. Staff persons receive room and board at the camp and a \$400 stipend.

At Camp Adams the following positions are open: Aquatic Director, Lifeguard, Health Aide, Arts and Crafts Aide and Music Aide. The period of employment is from June 25 through August 13. Staff persons receive room and board at the Camp and a \$700 stipend.

Persons interested in these positions should contact their local church office for job descriptions and applications or write to Gene Ross at the Conference office.

In addition to these program staff positions the Camping Task Forces are seeking volunteers for counseling positions at both sites. Persons interested in volunteering should contact Gene Ross.

Making things grow isn't easy for people in poor isolated mountain villages. With only primitive tools and age-old techniques, they find the land unyielding.



The Association of Evangelical Institutions, the social arm of our partner, the Evangelical and Reformed Church of Honduras, introduces appropriate technology and innovative techniques to farmers in this impoverished Central American country. The results are dramatic. We support this life-giving work with gifts to *Our Church's Wider Mission.*



## The Local Scene

Two Conference churches report continuing efforts to make their buildings accessible to mobility-impaired persons. Meridian UCC, Wilsonville, has built a ramp facilitating access to their sanctuary. First Congregational, Portland, recently dedicated two new lifts which now make all levels of their building accessible. On the same Sunday they dedicated their lifts, they also dedicated the new windows in their Fellowship Hall.

First Congregational, The Dalles, is in the process of replacing their 51 year old furnace with three new gas furnaces. The new installation will allow for zoned heating of their building.

Pilgrim Cove Camp, McCall, has hired a new Summer Manager for the Camp. Jay Leonard, a member of First Congregational Church, Mtn. Home, is no stranger to the camp having been involved as a camp counselor. Jay takes over the position from Arden Fritz who has been doing it but cannot continue because of his interim ministry work.

Meanwhile, at Camp Adams, Ty Luttrell has been hired to assist Harold Adkins.

Plymouth Congregational Church, New Plymouth, Idaho, will welcome The Reverend Doris Dunn on April 6. Doris and her husband, John Crouch, come to the Conference from Colorado where Doris graduated from Iliff seminary. Doris and John became new parents during the search process.

The Reverend Gary Vaughan, UCC minister, who heads up Portland's Operation Nightwatch, was recently awarded the 1988 Van Doozer Award for Christian Leadership by the membership of Waverly Heights Church, Portland. The award, a memorial to Edith Van Doozer, a long time member of the Waverly church and church leader on the local, regional and national levels of the church, is given annually to a person in recognition of his/her Christian service to the church and community.

Parkrose Community UCC has a 1959 Conn organ for sale. They would like to have \$700-\$900 for it. Persons interested should make an offer. Contact The Reverend Charles Ross at the church. Must be moved by May 1.

## FORMER CPC MINISTER

### SHOT IN S. AFRICA

Word was received at the Conference Office on March 2 that The Reverend Wayne Steinert, former Assistant Minister at The Congregational Church of Medford, 1979-80, had been shot to death on March 1 in South Africa. Details of the shooting remain sketchy as this NEWS is being prepared. Mr. Steinert had been working for the Disciples of Christ in Zimbabwe. He and his wife, Terry, had gone to South Africa to meet with other Disciples mission staff. A memorial service was conducted at Riverside Community Church, Hood River, on March 20.

Before going to Zimbabwe, Wayne and Terry had worked for a Lutheran relief agency in San Salvador, El Salvador. They had been pulled out of that country after other relief workers had been assassinated. They returned to Oregon for a brief stay at their residence in Mosier.

The condolences of the Conference have been expressed to Terry and to Wayne's father.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION TASK FORCE SEEKS NAMES**

The Public Education Task Force of the Conference is seeking to put together a list of CPC church members who are or have been involved with public education as teachers, administrators, school board members, or classified workers. The task force, chaired by former Beaverton school administrator, George Russell, member of Bethel Congregational Church, Beaverton, wants to send occasional mailings to educators letting them know of the work of the UCC in the area of educational concerns. Persons interested in receiving these mailings should send their name and address to Gene Ross at the Conference office.

In September the task force will be hosting a one-day retreat for teachers and administrators entitled God Loves Teachers. At the Spring Assembly they will also be displaying a video tape on censorship in public education which is available for use by adult study groups in CPC churches.



## The Last Word

In the past couple of weeks I have attended two conferences which prompt this writing of The Last Word. Just the past week I attended a seminar on ethical decision-making in counseling persons with unintended pregnancies. At this conference sponsored by the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, I heard great concern for the number of teen-aged females who are confronted with unintended pregnancies.



A week before, I had attended a conference on teen-age sexuality sponsored by the Marion County Health Department. Among the some four hundred participants there were about a dozen persons who work in churches. Again I heard health care professionals struggle with how to go about cutting down the number of teen-age pregnancies. Each year approximately one million women under the age of 20 become pregnant. 40% of those pregnancies end in abortion. We also heard that pregnant teen-aged girls are likely to drop out of school; teen-aged fathers are 40% less likely to graduate from high school; low birth-weight, traumatic death and infant mortality are significantly increased among infants of teen-agers. The statistics go on - including new concern for the risk of AIDS in sexually active youth. The situation is challenging, indeed, staggering. Children having children is an issue which the church cannot ignore.

What can the church do? It must do more than join the campaign of "just say no" although I believe the church must offer out-front moral leadership. It must do more than say there should be sexuality education in the public schools - it must make sure it is quality education. And beyond education, there needs to be support for the teen health clinics in the schools, clinics that include involvement from health professionals, parents and the students themselves.

I do not believe that the church can say that sex education belongs in the homes and in the schools, although I believe both parents and schools are important contributors.

Unfortunately, too many parents fail to exercise their responsibility and schools are restricted in their approach-restricted by the current understanding of the separation of church and state and restricted by the high-pressure activities of a small, very vocal minority who want no sexuality education in the public schools.

I believe that churches must play their part along with public schools and parents. The goal must be to help young people develop well thought out personal values toward sex and sexuality, values that will guide them when they are on their own. The church can offer something the schools cannot - a Christian perspective on sexuality and sexual relationships which will guide youth in making their moral decisions about their life-style.

We owe it to our youth to provide them with enlightened guidance. I would be interested in hearing from churches that already are doing intentional education in human sexuality. I would also be interested in talking with churches that would like to develop such programs. Let me hear from you.

Gene Ross  
Associate Conference Minister



Published by  
Central Pacific Conference  
for use in local congregations.

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